

TOURISM MALAYSIA OFFICES

DOMESTIC OFFICES

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Tel : 03-293 5188
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REGIONAL OFFICES

NORTHERN REGION

10, Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah,
10200 Penang
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e-mail : mtpbpen@tourism.gov.my

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Suite 5-2, Johor Tourism Information
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e-mail : mtpbjhb@tourism.gov.my

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5th Floor, Menara Yayasan Islam
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20300 Kuala Terengganu
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No. 1, Jalan Sagunting,
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2nd Floor, Bangunan Rugayah
Jalan Song Thian Cheok
93100 Kuching
Tel : 082-246 575/246 775
Fax : 082-246 442
e-mail : mtpbkch@tourism.gov.my

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Lot Plaza Putra, Jalan Raja
50050 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-293 6664

Kuala Lumpur Railway Station
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin
50050 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-227 46063

Level 2, Putra World Trade Centre
45, Jalan Tun Ismail
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-441 1295
Fax : 03-293 5884

Malaysia Tourist Information Centre
(MATIC)
109, Jalan Ampang,
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-216 43929
Fax : 03-216 21149

International Arrival Hall
KL International Airport (KLIA)
43900 Sepang, Selangor
Tel : 03-8787 4212

Arrival Hall
Penang International Airport
11900 Pulau Pinang
Tel : 04-643 0501

Jalan Persiaran Putra
07000 Kuah, Langkawi
Tel : 04-966 7789
Fax : 04-966 7889
e-mail : mtpblgk@tourism.gov.my

Langkawi International Airport
07100 Padang Mat Sirat, Langkawi
Tel : 04-955 7155

Bukit Kayu Hitam
06500 Changlun, Kedah
Tel : 04-922 2078
Fax : 04-922 2078
e-mail : mtpbbkh@tourism.gov.my

Lumut Tourist Information Centre
Jalan Sultan Idris Shah
32200 Lumut, Perak
Tel : 05-683 4057

Tanjung Puteri Tour Bus Complex
Tambak Johor
Tel : 07-222 3592

Johor Causeway
80000 Johor Bahru, Johor
Tel : 07-224 9485

Lot 4260 Jalan Dewan/Jalan Berjaya
87007 Labuan
Tel : 087-423 445/446
Fax : 087-423 446
e-mail : mtpblbu@tourism.gov.my

STATE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Jalan Sultan Ibrahim
15050 Kota Bharu
Kelantan
Tel : 09-748 5534/748 3518
Fax : 09-748 6652

KELANTAN



Malaysia
Truly Asia

All information contained herein is correct at the time of production. While every care is taken in the preparation of this brochure, Tourism Malaysia cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracy, omission or alteration that may occur. KEL (English) December 99.

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TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY

Your Free Copy

**TOURISM
MALAYSIA**

ROAD MAP OF KOTA BHARU



Places of Interest

- 1 Cultural Centre
- 2 State Museum
- 3 Silversmith
- 4 Batik / Songket Centre
- 5 Semasa Batik Factory
- 6 UDA Shopping Arcade
- 7 Antique Shopping
- 8 Buluh Kubu Bazaar
- 9 Cottage Industries / PCB / Kite Making
- 10 Central Market
- 11 Old Market
- 12 Night Market

Cultural Centre

- 13 Istana Jahar
- 14 Royal Museum
- 15 Islamic Museum
- 16 Second World War Memorial
- 17 Handicraft Village & Craft Museum
- 18 Balai Besar Palace
- 19 Merdeka Square

Important Places

- 20 Tourist Information Centre
- 21 Cultural and Arts Office
- 22 Kota Darul Naim
- 23 Police Station
- 24 Customs Office
- 25 General Post Office
- 26 Telecoms Office
- 27 Federal Office Building
- Immigration Office
- 28 Royal Thai Consulate
- 29 General Hospital

Transportation

- 30 Malaysia Airlines Office
- 31 Local Bus Terminal
- 32 Mini Bus Terminal (to PCB)
- 33 Express Bus Station (SKMK) Langgar - (to Singapore, Johor Bahru, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Kuantan)
- 34 Express Bus Station (to Ipoh, Seremban, Malacca)
- 35 Taxi Stand

HISTORICAL ZONE

The museums and heritage buildings of Kelantan offer valuable insights into the history of the state. Most of these spots are located along Jalan Hilir Kota and Jalan Sultan and can be easily covered by taking a walking tour. Some of the museums charge a nominal fee for admission.

ROYAL MUSEUM / ISTANA BATU

Built in 1939 during the reign of Sultan Ismail, the Royal Museum is housed within the Istana Batu, previously used as the venue for royal weddings and as a guest house for royalty. Today, it serves as a repository for regalia and palace items belonging to former sultans.

The exhibitions include silverware, bedroom items and furniture from the royal household. A photo exhibition of the late Sultan of Kelantan is also on display.

Opening hours : 8.30 am - 4.45 pm daily (except Fridays)



Royal Museum



Istana Jahar

ISTANA JAHAR

In 1887, Sultan Muhamad the second built Istana Jahar for his grandson, Long Kundur. Today, the palace has been converted into a museum by the state government. Visitors will be enthralled by the photos, exhibits and artifacts on Kelantan's cultural heritage as well as the museum's intricate wood carvings, testimony to the fine craftsmanship of the Kelantanese.

Opening hours : 8.30 am - 4.45 pm daily (except Fridays)



Enjoy a trishaw ride in Kota Bharu

ISLAMIC MUSEUM

The history of Islam in Kelantan is well documented in the artifacts and inscriptions exhibited here. The establishment of the museum reflects the importance of the state as a centre of Islamic learning.

Opening hours : 8.30 am - 4.45 pm daily (except Fridays)

STATE MUSEUM

This building was used as the premises of the land office from the colonial days until 1990 when major renovations were carried out to convert it into the State Museum. Exhibits of special interest here include the paraphernalia associated with Kelantan's traditional art. It also served as the main office for the Kelantan State Museum Corporation.

Opening hours : 8.30 am - 4.45 pm daily (except Fridays)



Intricate wood carvings on an old palace

SECOND WORLD WAR MEMORIAL / BANK KERAPU

This historic building presently serves as a repository for memorabilia and documents relating to the Japanese occupation during World War II.

Opening hours : 8.30 am - 4.45 pm daily (except Fridays)

HANDICRAFT VILLAGE AND CRAFT MUSEUM

Kelantan's exquisite range of handicrafts which include silverware, 'songket', 'batik' and woodcarvings are displayed and sold here.

Opening hours : 8.30 am - 4.45 pm daily (except Fridays)



Balai Besar Palace

BALAI BESAR PALACE

Built in 1840 by Sultan Muhamad II, the palace is situated in the vicinity of the state mosque. It was formerly the residence of the Kelantanese sultans but now it is only used as the venue for state functions. The palace has a large audience hall, a throne room and a collection of royal regalia.



Merdeka Square

MERDEKA SQUARE

FISHING VILLAGE

No visit to Kelantan is complete without a trip to one of its many fishing villages that form the soul of Malaysia's East Coast. One of the best known of these fishing villages is at Sabak Beach, 14 km from Kota Bharu.

An experience not to be missed here is to watch local fishermen returning from sea in the late afternoon, their colourful boats laden with the day's catch. A noisy yet interesting time of haggling ensues between the fishermen and their customers on the beach.

Other activities that one can witness at the village include drying of fish and mending of nets.

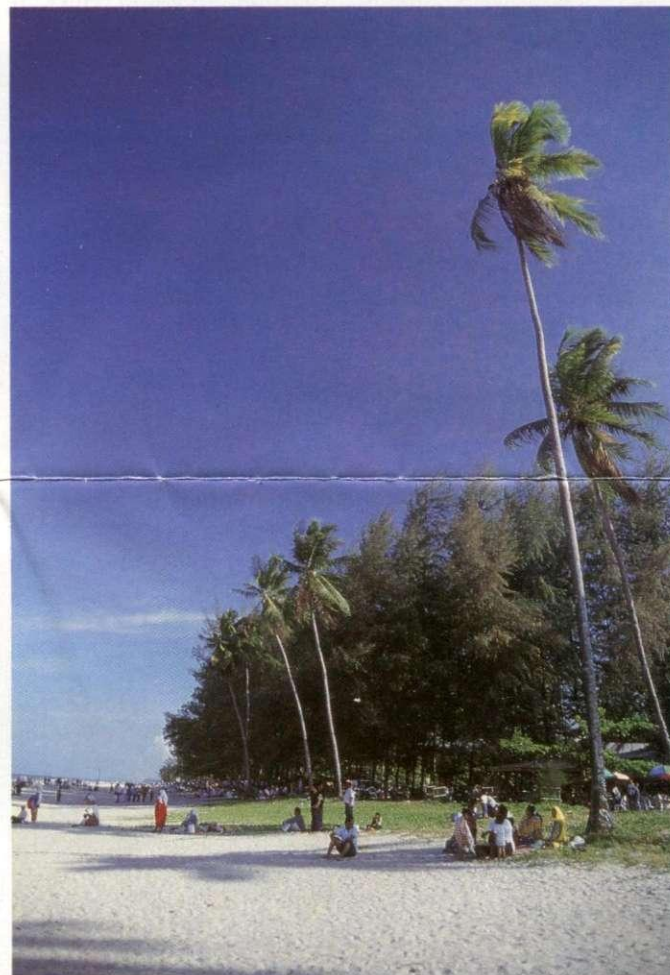


A colourful beach scene of fishermen selling their catch

BEACHES

Pantai Cahaya Bulan is located on the northeast stretch of the Kelantan coastline, just 9.6 km from Kota Bharu. The beach is shaded by tall casuarina trees which provide an ideal spot for picnics and relaxation. Comfortable chalets are available at the beach.

Pantai Irama or the 'Beach of Melody' is located 25 km south of Kota Bharu in the district of Bachok. It is reputed to be the most beautiful beach along the entire east coast and is popular with picnickers and campers.



Balmy Cahaya Bulan Beach



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Merdeka Square

MERDEKA SQUARE

The Merdeka Square was the site of many historical events in particular the declaration of the independence of Malaysia on 31st August 1957.

STATE MOSQUE

Also known as the "Al-Muhammadi" mosque and the "Brick Mosque", this edifice was completed in 1926, during the reign of Sultan Ismail the fourth after almost a decade. The mosque is the centre for missionary activities in the state.



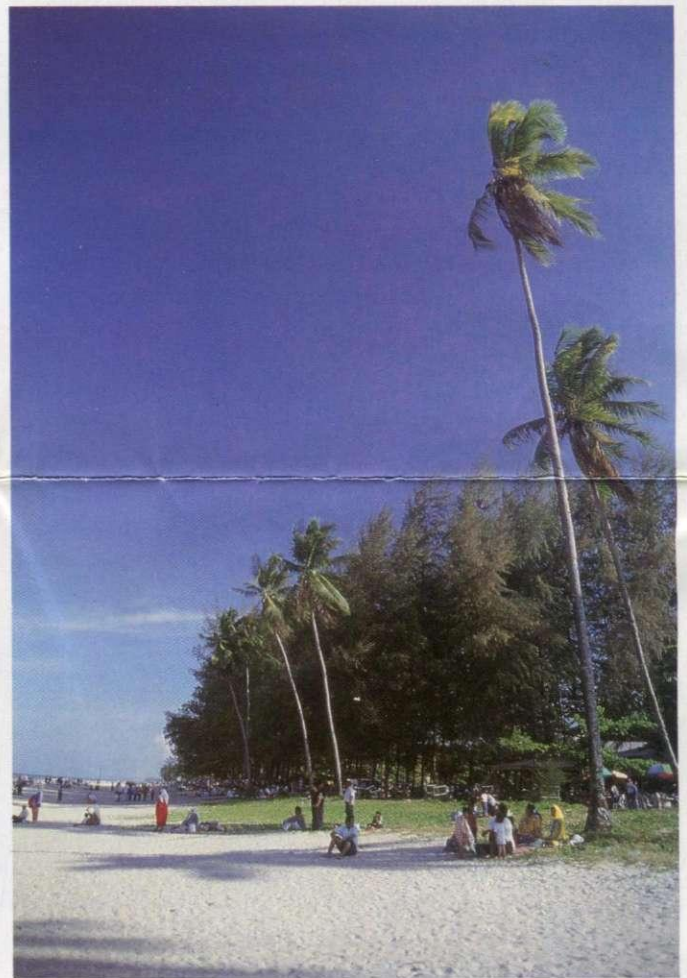
The stately Al-Muhammadi Mosque

KUALA KRAI MUSEUM AND MINI ZOO

Located in Kuala Krai about 64 km from Kota Bharu, the mini zoo is home to a variety of animals such as bears, deer, monkeys and birds. The mini museum houses a collection of preserved animals as well as photographs and documents relating to the founding of Kuala Krai.

Opening hours : 9.00 am. - 6.00 pm daily (except Fridays)

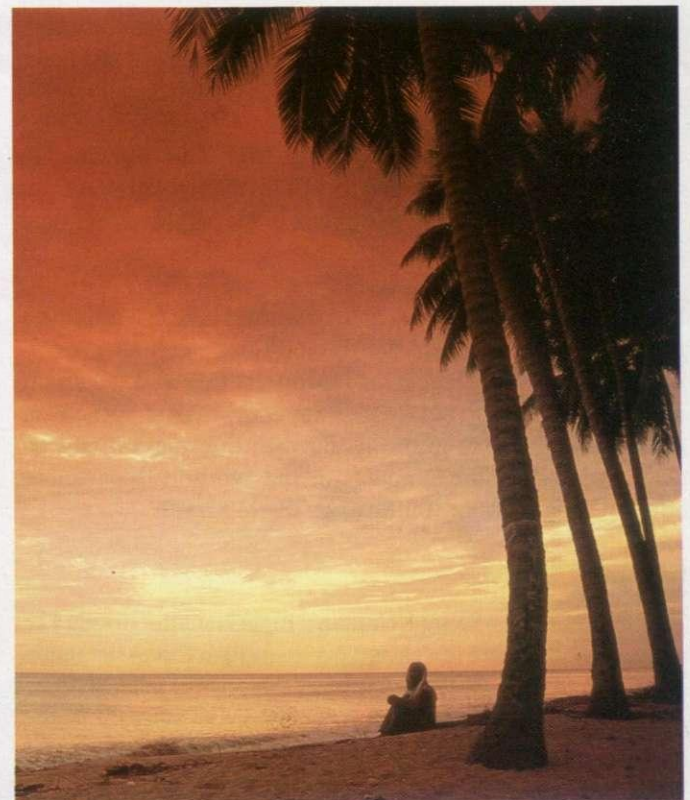
with picnickers and campers.



Balmy Cahaya Bulan Beach

Pantai Bisikan Bayu located near Semerak, in the district of Pasir Puteh, 50 km away from Kota Bharu, is famous for its tall casuarinas offering cool shades for picnickers. Its name means "Beach of the Whispering Breeze".

Pantai Seri Tujuh, another lovely beach 7 km north of Kota Bharu is the venue of the Annual Malaysian International Kite Festival. It is situated close to the Kelantan-Thailand border. Visitors will be enthralled by the scenic coastline fringing the South-China Sea en-route to Pantai Seri Tujuh.



Admiring the sunset at Sabak Beach

WATERFALLS

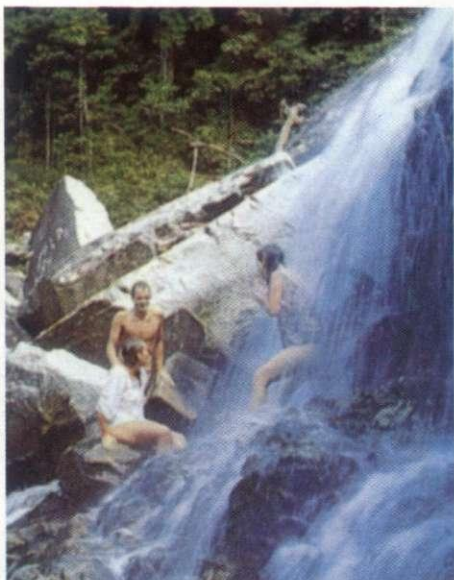
Kelantan's emerald forests boast of a number of picturesque waterfalls that provide ideal spots for picnicking and relaxation. Most of these waterfalls are located in the district of Pasir Puteh about 35 km from Kota Bharu.

Jeram Pasu, located at Kampung Padang Pak Amat and accessible by car, is by far the most popular. A dip in its crystal clear icy-waters will sooth even the most weary traveller.

Located about 65 km from Kota Bharu, **Jeram Lenang** is another favourite spot among the locals. It is also an ideal place for picnicking, relaxing, camping and also jungle-trekking.

The jewel in the crown is undoubtedly **Lata Beringin** which is noted for its 120m high waterfall.

Located at the Sungai Pas Kesedar Scheme, it is accessible via a dirt track leading off from the Kuala Krai-Gua Musang Highway. Lata Beringin is famous for its magnificent view and lush surroundings that make it a popular camping spot.



Kelantan's waterfalls are popular picnic spots

RIVER CRUISE AND JUNGLE TREKKING

Visitors who are into eco-tourism will enjoy taking a cruise up the Kelantan River into the virgin rainforest of Kelantan. Marvel at the grandeur of the ancient rainforest and alert your senses to signs of wildlife along the way. Another attraction of the cruise is to take in the sights of the riverine communities and their activities.

To take the river cruise, one has first to get to Kuala Krai, about an hour and a half south of Kota Bharu. At Kuala Krai, take the boat at the riverside jetty to begin the 2 hours cruise that will end in Dabong.

From Dabong, several options are available. You can either take the train for the return trip back to Wakaf Baru and then to Kota Bharu or proceed to Jelawang for a jungle trekking experience. This requires an overnight stay at one of the chalets located here. Don't miss visiting the spectacular **Jelawang Waterfalls**, a rewarding experience inspite of the 1½ hours jungle trek to get there.

Alternatively, one can take the south bound train from Dabong to Gua Musang, a 2½ hours journey. Here is where the majestic **Lata Beringin Waterfalls** is located. Gua Musang is



SHOPPING



A wide selection of goods and handicrafts on display

Kelantan is a shoppers' haven offering a wide variety of traditional handicraft as well as merchandise from across the border.

Gorgeous silk kaftans, batik scarves, silver trinkets and rich songket all vie for attention. Baskets of every hue, handbags woven from mengkuang and place mats are also on sale.

The shopper will be captivated by the many interesting offerings and the exciting bargains. One can choose to shop either at the bazaar and the new Central Market or the shopping complexes.

Bazaar Buluh Kubu. Head to this bazaar if you're looking for bargains. This 3 storey shopping complex is stocked with miniature souvenir, knick-knacks and clothings. The t-shirts, hats, key chains and silver ornaments on sale here make lovely gifts.



Women entrepreneurs add colour to the Kota Bharu Central Market.

New Central Market. Kelantan's Central Market is a riot of colour and is a popular spot for photography buffs. Kelantanese stall holders conduct their business amidst rows of chillies, carrots, seafood and farm produce. It may surprise you that a majority of them are women. Perhaps, this can be attributed to the fact that Kelantan was once ruled by a princess.

Jalan Temenggong. All along this street are tastefully decorated shops offering their treasures of gold, jewellery, rich textiles and brassware.

EATING OUT

Kelantan boasts of unique cuisine with specialities like ayam percik, nasi kerabu and nasi dagang.

Ayam Percik, a favourite with locals and visitors



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Alternatively, one can take the south bound train from Dabong to Gua Musang, a 2½ hours journey. Here is where the majestic **Lata Beringin Waterfalls** is located. Gua Musang also lies in the vicinity of Taman Negara amidst the splendour of the world's oldest rainforest.



Enjoy scenic river boat safari trips

Explore the many limestone caves, cascading waterfalls or enjoy a riverboat safari.

Those interested in organised trips to these places should check with the travel agents in Kuala Lumpur or Kota Bharu and make prior bookings.

Kuala Koh, approximately 90 km from Gua Musang, is another attractive spot for visitors to Taman Negara apart from the park headquarters at Kuala Tahan in the neighbouring state of Pahang.

Kuala Koh boasts of pleasant natural settings and lush rainforest greenery. It is ideal for nature activities such as jungle-trekking, bird watching, river rafting, fishing and mountain climbing. Kuala Koh is 2 hours from Gua Musang by the Gua Musang-Kuala Krai Highway. Further information can be obtained from local travel agents or the Wildlife Department office in Gua Musang, Tel./fax no.: 09-912 2940.

GUNUNG STONG

Take off to Gunung Stong Kelantan's highest mountain at 1422 metres. Located here is a cave, Gua Ikan (Fish Cave). Its name is derived from a solitary rock that looks like a fish. To cave explorers on an expedition, part of the lure is trying to find a pot of gold believed to have been hidden during the Japanese Occupation.



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Ayam Percik, a favourite with locals and visitors alike, is barbecued chicken marinated with spicy coconut gravy.



Delectable Kelantanese desserts



Savour a delicious spread of Kelantanese fare

Nasi Kerabu, another rice-based dish, is served with coconut milk, flaked fish, desiccated coconut and a variety of herbs and sauces.

Nasi Dagang is a type of rice with a brownish tinge steamed with coconut milk and served with fish gravy.

Restaurants and food stalls abound in Kota Bharu and hawkers selling snacks can be found almost anywhere.

At the junction of Jalan Padang Garong and Jalan Pengkalan Chepa, you will find Kota Bharu's Chinatown. Traditional chinese noodle dishes are readily available here.

Those who are looking for an outdoor Malaysian dining experience in the evening, should try the food stalls open from 6.00 pm to midnight at Padang Bas, in the town centre.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Kelantan silver is renowned for its intricacy of design and superior workmanship. Silversmiths use two kinds of techniques—"filigree" and "repoussé". Items range from the functional to the purely ornamental and include fruit bowls, tea sets, ashtrays, brooches and bracelets.

You can visit the silvercraft factories at Kampung Sireh along Jalan Sultanah Zainab, Kampung Marak or Kampung Badang on the road to Pantai Cahaya Bulan.



A silversmith at work

Songket Weaving is a proud legacy of the Kelantan and Patani courts. Once strictly reserved for royalty, songket is now used for ceremonial occasions and weddings. Richly woven with gold or silver threads, songket was the product of the region's early trade with China (which supplied the silk) and India (gold and silver threads).

You may like to visit a songket-weaving factory at Kampung Penambang, about 4 km north of Kota Bharu, en-route to Pantai Cahaya Bulan.



Traditional art of Songket weaving



Batik painting demonstration

Batik Printing. Batik is indigenous to Kelantan. The first cotton sarungs were printed using the stamp block method but since then newer methods and different materials have been employed.

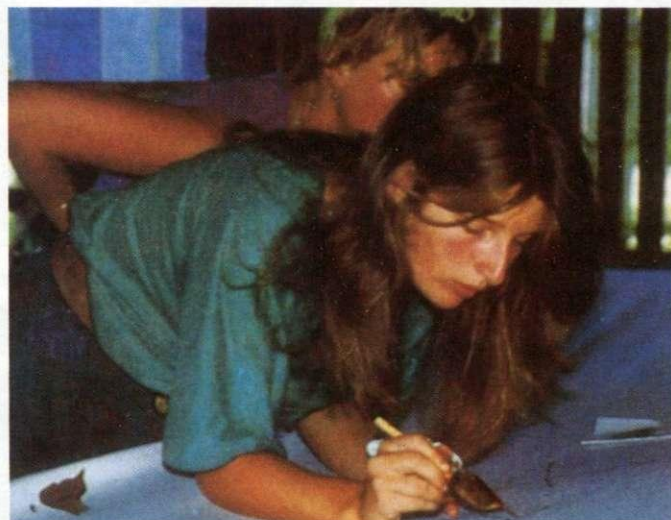
Kite Making. Kelantan is the home of giant kites that soar through the air without a care in the world. Kite-flying usually takes place after the harvesting season when farmers have time on their hands to fashion and fly the giant kites. The kites come in an assortment of shapes and designs with interesting names such as *wau kucing* (cat kite), *wau merak* (peacock kite), and *wau bulan* (moon kite) to name a few.

Kite-making requires tremendous skill and patience. The art is usually handed down from father to son. Along the road to Pantai Cahaya Bulan, there are many such establishments producing these gaily-decorated kites.

HOMESTAY

Savour the hospitality of a typical Kelantanese family by opting to stay with a family of your choice. This unique homestay programme enables you to get an insight into the culture and lifestyle of these simple folk. You can choose to be "adopted" by the family of either a potter, fisherman, kite maker, batik manufacturer, silversmith or a top maker.

Contact the State Tourist Information Centre to make the necessary arrangements.



Experience true Malaysian hospitality

GETTING THERE

By Road - There is an excellent network of roads linking the major towns in Peninsular Malaysia to Kelantan. From Kuala Lumpur, the overland route takes one eastward along the Karak Highway to Kuantan in Pahang a journey of about 3 hours.

The rest of the journey from Kuantan to Kota Bharu takes about 4½ hours. The route heads northward along the coast passing through picturesque villages and providing scenic vistas of the palm-fringed beaches overlooking the azure waters of the South China Sea.

The inland route to Kota Bharu turns off the Karak Highway at Bentong and proceeds northwards to Raub and then to Gua Musang, before reaching Kota Bharu. An alternative route exits the Karak Highway at Temerloh and passes through Jerantut, Benta and Gua Musang en-route to Kota Bharu.

From Penang, one has to get to Grik via Sungai Petani in Kedah and then travel along the scenic East-West Highway to Jeli in



Traditional art of Songket weaving



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A visit to the batik factory gives an insight into the entire process of batik printing. Some of the bigger factories are at Kampung Puteh, Kubur Kuda and Kampung Badang.

Opening hours : 8.30 am - 5.30 pm daily (except Fridays)

Woodcarving. Kelantan's woodcarvers are some of the best in the region. They produce lovely mirror frames, lamp stands and head-boards. Floral motifs are the norm.



Observe deft fingers in the ancient art of kite-making



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From Penang, one has to get to Grik via Sungai Petani in Kedah and then travel along the scenic East-West Highway to Jeli in Kelantan before continuing the journey to Kota Bharu.

There are regular air-conditioned express bus services between Kuala Lumpur, as well as major towns in Kota Bharu.

By Rail. Express trains from Kuala Lumpur to Kelantan terminate at Wakaf Bharu and Tumpat. From these two points, one can get to Kota Bharu either by taxi or bus. Stop over points en-route include Gua Musang, Kuala Krai, Tanah Merah and Pasir Mas.

For further details, kindly contact :

- Malayan Railway (Kuala Lumpur) Tel.: 03 - 273 8000
e-mail : passenger@ktmb.com.my

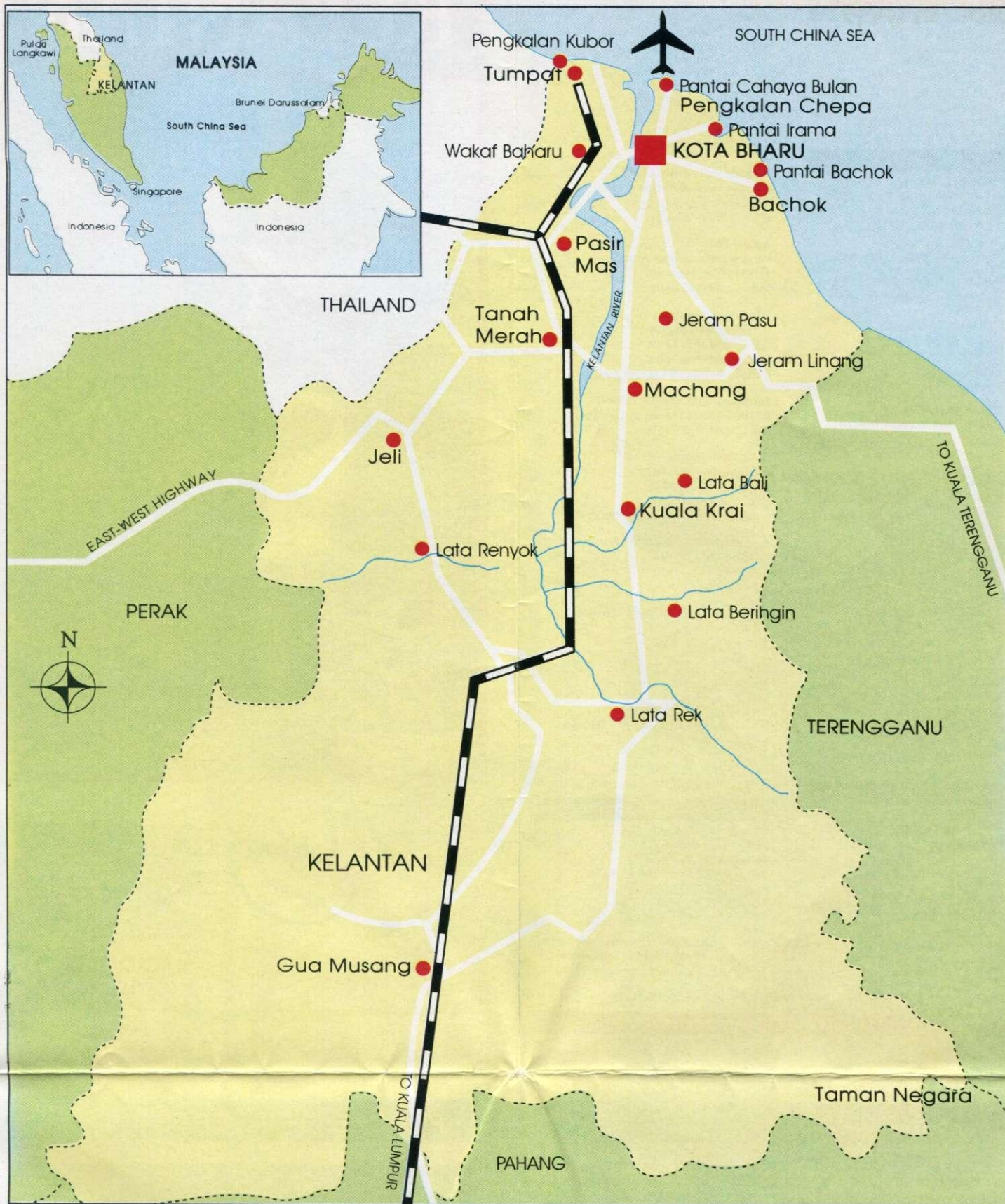
Once you are in Kota Bharu, it is relatively easy to get to nearby districts as regular bus and taxi services are available from the main bus terminal.

For those who are interested to visit places of interest in the interior of Kelantan, it is advisable to enquire with the Kelantan State Tourist Information Centre or any registered travel agent in Malaysia.

By Air. Malaysia Airlines operates daily flights to Kota Bharu from Kuala Lumpur and Penang. Pelangi Air also flies daily to Kota Bharu from Kuala Lumpur. For reservations, please contact :

- Malaysia Airlines (Kuala Lumpur) Tel : 03-746 3000
- Pelangi Air (Kuala Lumpur) Tel : 03-740 3405

KELANTAN



ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION

Diamond Puteri Hotel

Section 9, Jalan Post Office Lama,
15200 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-743 9988
Fax: 09-743 8388
<http://www.diamond-puteri.com>
e-mail: DPHKS@tm.net.my

Hotel Mawar

Bangunan Mawar,
Jalan Parit Dalam,
Bandar Kota Bharu,
15200 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-744 8888/744 0000
740 0110
Fax: 09-747 6666

Sutera Inn Prima

Jalan Dusu Muda,
Off Jalan Bayam,
15200 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-747 1000
Fax: 09-744 2000
e-mail: suterain@tm.net.my

Hotel Ansar

Jalan Maju,
15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-747 4000
Fax: 09-746 1150
email: pkb@po.jaring.my

Crystal Lodge

124, Jalan Che Su,
15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-747 0888
Fax: 09-747 0088

Juita Inn

Pt. 60-64, Jalan Pintu Pong,
15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-744 6888
Fax: 09-744 5777
e-mail: hotel@tm.net.my

Square Point

Jalan Pengkalan Chepa,
15200 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-743 3333/743 2333
Fax: 09-743 8333
e-mail: hotel@tm.net.my

Safar Inn

Jalan Hilir Kota,
15300 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-747 8000
Fax: 09-747 9000

Hotel Sentosa

No. 3180-A, Jalan Sultan Ibrahim,
15200 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-744 3200

Kencana Inn

Jalan Padang Garong,
Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-744 7944
Fax: 09-744 0181

Hotel Perdana

P.O. Box 222,
Jalan Mahmud,
15720 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-748 5000
Fax: 09-744 7621
Toll free: 1-800-889 567

Dynasty Inn

2865-D & E,
Jalan Sultanah Zainab,
15050 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-747 3000
Fax: 09-747 3111

Perdana Beach Resort

P.O. Box 121
Jalan Kuala Pa' amat,
Pantai Cahaya Bulan,
15710 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-774 4000
Fax: 09-774 4980

Hotel Temenggong

Jalan Tok Hakim,
15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-748 3481
Fax: 09-744 1481

Pantai Cinta Berahi Resort

Pantai Cahaya Bulan,
Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-773 2307
Fax: 09-774 1466

Hostel Pantai Timur

Lot 391, Section 27,
Jalan Kebun Sultan,
Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-748 3753

Nikmat Lodge

Jalan Tengku Besar,
Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 019-910 4070

Johnty's Malaya Villa

Lot 882, Jalan Kebun Sultan
Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-744 8866

Menora Guest House

Wisma Chua Tong Boon,
Jalan Sultanah Zainab,
Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-748 1669

Town Guest House

Jalan Pengkalan Chepa,
Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-743 2521

Perdana Stong Hill Resort

Kampong Jelawang,
18200 Dabong, Kelantan.
Tel./Fax: 09-747 6100

Kesedar Inn

Gua Musang, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-912 1491
Fax: 09-912 2121

Hotel Gua Musang

Bandar Baru Gua Musang,
Gua Musang, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-912 2121/912 2929
Fax: 09-912 2121

Chalet Sri Ketitir

Bandar Baru Gua Musang,
Gua Musang, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-912 1235
Fax: 09-912 1044

Pantai Irama Motel

Bachok, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-778 8462

Hotel Tanah Merah

Taman Tasik,
Tanah Merah, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-955 7682/955 7398
Fax: 09-955 7398

Sri Chalet

Taman Tasik Sri,
Tanah Merah, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-955 6626
Fax: 09-955 6300

Chalet Sri Tujuh

Pantai Sri Tujuh,
Tumpat, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-721 1753

Taman Rehlah

Pantai Bisikan Bayu Semerak,
Pasir Puteh, Kelantan.
Tel.: 09-691 9887
Fax: 09-691 8358



The inviting poolside of a resort hotel in Kota Bharu

*For further details
please contact your nearest
State Information Centre or
your nearest travel agents.*

BACKGROUND

Kelantan, literally translated as the 'Land of Lightning', is a veritable treasure trove of delights. Its rustic fishing villages, verdant padi fields and languid, palm-fringed beaches have captivated many of its visitors. Kelantan offers a world of gracious beauty and an old-world charm that few can resist.

Tucked away in the north-eastern corner of Peninsular Malaysia, Kelantan is known as the cradle of Malay culture as the Kelantanese have carefully preserved their age-old customs and traditions over the centuries.

Here, it is not an uncommon sight to see colourful kites soaring upwards defying gravity and giant drums revebrate in unison. *Wayang kulit* or shadow puppet shows, a rare form of entertainment in other parts of the country, mesmerise audiences and giant top competitions provide hours of endless fun.

Kelantan has a population of about 1.4 million, of which 95% are Malay and the rest consisting of Chinese, Indians and Thais. The people of Kelantan are renown for their warmth and friendliness.

HISTORY

Kelantan boasts of a historical past dating as far back as 8000 B.C. Interestingly, ancient Chinese historical records mention the existence of a government in the Peninsular which had ties with the Imperial Court of China.

In the 18th century, the provinces that now form the state of Kelantan came under a powerful warrior, Long Yunus, whose descendents presently make-up the royal house of Kelantan. The state came under Thai and British influence before becoming part of the Federation of Malaya in 1957.

ECONOMY

Kelantan's economy is primarily agragrian with the main cash crops being padi, rubber and tobacco. Fishing and livestock rearing are important economic activities.

Cottage industries which utilize traditional skills such as batik - painting, wood carving, songket weaving and silverware is an interesting feature of the local economy. In recent years, tourism has also become a major money spinner.

The best place to begin for visitors wishing to experience the mviad - of attractions in the state is at Kota Bharu, the state capital. The sights and sounds of this bustling town is evidence of the Kelantanese penchant for free enterprise.

The focal point of the town's activities is the Kota Bharu market. Elsewhere, the artistic qualities of its people can be seen in its museums and the colourfully decorated trishaws plying the streets.

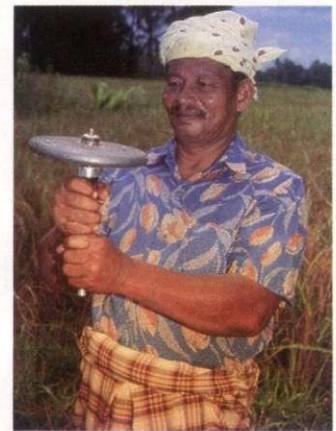
PLACES OF INTEREST



A colourful wau (giant kite)

CULTURAL CENTRE

The Cultural Centre located on Jalan Mahmud near Perdana Hotel is a showcase of Kelantan's rich cultural heritage. Demonstrations of the popular folk arts and pastimes of Kelantan such as wayang kulit (shadow play), silat (martial arts), main gasing (top spinning), rebana ubi (giant drums), wau (kite flying) can be witnessed here.



Kelantan giant top (gasing)

In the evenings, cultural performances featuring traditional Malay music and wayang kulit take centre stage.

The cultural centre is open from March until October and is closed during Ramadhan, the fasting month as well as in November and December.

Performance times :
3.30 pm - 5.30 pm
(Mondays only)
3.30 pm - 5.30 pm
and 9.00pm - 12.00
midnight
(Wednesdays &
Saturdays only).



Pencak Silat Demonstration